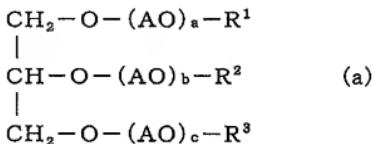


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 11, in which the compound is represented by the following general formula (a), its hydroxyl value (OHV), saponification value (SV) and acid value (AV) satisfying the following: OHV/(SV - AV + OHV) ranges from 0 to 0.3,



wherein  $\underline{[\text{R}1]}$  to  $\underline{[\text{R}3]}$  are each independently a hydrogen atom, or an acyl group having 1 to 24 carbon atoms provided that at least one of  $\underline{[\text{R}1]}$  to  $\underline{[\text{R}3]}$  is an acyl group having 8 to 24 carbon atoms, A is an alkylene group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, A may be the groups wherein the numbers of their carbon atoms are different, and  $a+b+c$  is a numerical number of from 45 to 1000.

3. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 2, in which the hydroxyl value (OHV) of a fraction having a weight average molecular weight of 2000 or more, the saponification value (SV) thereof and the acid value (AV) thereof satisfying the following: OHV/(SV - AV + OHV) ranges from 0 to 0.3.

4. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 2, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (a) is an esterified reactant of a reaction product obtained by adding an alkylene oxide to glycerin, and a carboxylic acid.

## 5. - 8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 11, wherein the esterification is carried out in the absence of a fat or oil.

10. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 11, wherein the polyhydric alcohol is a trihydric alcohol.

11. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a deinking agent, comprising the step of:

esterifying an alkylene oxide adduct to a polyhydric alcohol having 3-10 valences with a carboxylic acid, at a temperature of 100 °C to 260 °C; to yield a compound represented by the general formula (Y) shown below and having a value of OHV/(SV - AV + OHV) in the range of from 0 to [[0.5]] 0.3, wherein OHV represents the hydroxyl value, SV represents the saponification value, and AV represents the acid value;



wherein R is each independently a hydrogen atom or an acyl group having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, provided that at least one of plural R is an acyl group having 8 to 24 carbon atoms, A is an alkylene group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, A may be the groups wherein the numbers of their carbon atoms are different, and m x n is a numerical number of from 45 to 1000, X is a polyhydric alcohol group, n is a number of 3 to 10 being equivalent the valence of X.